In re: Patent Application of YOKOI et al Serial No. 09/680,514

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 10-18 are pending.

The claims have been amended to advance prosecution, without prejudice.

Claim 11 has rewritten in independent form, for further clarity.

The undersigned believes the Examiner indicated during a teleconference on March 20, 2003, that the above amendment could be entered prior to issuance of a further Action. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned in the event anything further is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

B. J. Sadoff

Reg. No. 36,663

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714 Telephone: (703) 816-4000 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100